

Application No. 09/575,552

Docket No. 22-0099

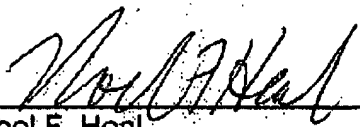
REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were submitted for reconsideration and re-examination. In the aforementioned Office action, claims 1-3 and 5-10 were again rejected on various grounds. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 13-21, the indication of allowability of claims 4, 11 and 12, and the apparent withdrawal of rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and various objections to the specification and drawings. By this amendment, Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims and has rewritten the claims objected to in independent form.

Specifically, claims 1-3 and 5-10 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 4, 11 and 12, which depended from claim 1, have been rewritten as independent claims. Accordingly, remaining claims 4 and 11-21 are all believed to be allowable without further substantive examination. Formal notification of allowance of the application is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 14, 2004


Noel F. Heal
Registration No. 26,074

Northrop Grumman Space Technology
Intellectual Asset Management
One Space Park, E1-2041
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
Telephone: (310) 812-4910
FAX: (310) 812-2687